

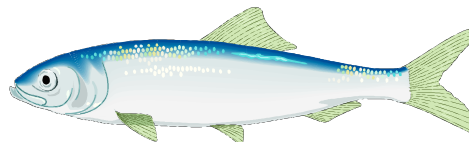
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: May 3, 2012
Time: 7:30 p.m.

KODIAK COMMERCIAL HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY NEWS RELEASE # 20 **For Emergency Order #4-FH-K-22-12**

Commercial herring fishing **opened** for purse seine gear in that portion of the **Village Islands/Uganik bay sections (UG30 and UG32-34) south of 57° 46.00' N. lat. and north of 57° 44.50' N. lat. from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday May 3, 2012.**

As Previously Announced:

The following areas are **open** to both seine and gillnet gear for commercial herring sac roe fishing.

<u>Afognak Districts:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Alitak District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Eastside District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>
(NA50) Tonki Bay	40	(AL20) Inner Alitak	100	(EA21) Three Saints Bay	75
(SA10-30) Izhut, Kitoi, and MacDonalds Lagoon	100	(AL21, 22) Inner and Outer Deadman bays	400	(EA24) Barling Bay	100
		(AL30) Sulua Bay	75	(EA51) Inner Ugak	150
<u>Uganik District:</u>		(AL40) Lower Olga-Moser	50		
(UG20) Viekode Bay	25	(AL41) East Upper Olga Bay	75	<u>Inner Marmot District:</u>	
(UG31)W.Uganik Passage	50	(AL50)West Upper Olga Bay	75	(IM40) Kizhuyak Bay	150

Purse seine fishing periods will be **noon to 9:00 p.m. on odd-numbered days, and 9:00 a.m. to noon on even-numbered days**, followed by a 24 hour closed period.

Fishing periods for gillnet gear began at **noon, Tuesday, May 1, 2012** and remain **open until further notice.**

The following areas will open or remain open to **only** gillnet gear until further notice:

<u>Afognak Districts:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Uyak District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Eastside District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>
(WA10) Raspberry Strait	10	(UY32) Browns Lagoon	50	(EA42) Shearwater Bay	75
(WA20) Malina Bay	10	(UY40) Zachar Bay	25	(EA44) Inner Kiliuda Bay	50
(NA30) Perenosa Bay	10	(UY50) Spiridon Bay	10		
(SA40) Danger Bay	175				
<u>Northeast District:</u>					
(NE10) Womens Bay	50				
<u>Inner Marmot District:</u>					
(IM20) Anton Larsen	15				
(IM30) Sharatin Bay	30				

The Inner Uyak Bay section (UY30) will remain closed to both gear types until the department can be available to monitor the fishery. There will be a 24 hour notice given prior to any test fishing in the Inner Uyak Section.

Beginning May 1, all Kodiak commercial sac roe herring fishermen that wish to continue fishing must be registered with the department. Registration may be accomplished either in the Kodiak fish and game office, or with fish and game personnel when available in the field. Communication is critical to effectively manage the commercial herring fishery. Herring fishermen will need to contact the department prior to fishing in an area and when herring are harvested. Failure to do so will result in area closures.

The current estimate of the total harvested herring in the Kodiak Management Area is approximately 3,100 tons.

The following areas are closed to commercial herring fishing for the remainder of the season:

- The East Sitkalidak, West Sitkalidak, Outer Kiliuda Bay, and Outer Ugak Bay sections of the Eastside District.
- The Terror Bay Section of the Uganik District.

EXPLORATORY AREAS

The following sections are designated as EXPLORATORY, and will be open to either gear type, with differential fishing periods by gear type as outlined above for purse seine or gillnet gear:

<u>Afognak Districts:</u>	<u>Alitak District:</u>	<u>Eastside District:</u>
(WA20) Delphin Bay	(AL60) Geese/Two Headed	(EA10) Kaiugnak Bay
(WA40) Bluefox Bay		(EA20) SW Sitkalidak
		(EA22) Newman Bay
		(EA31) Tanginak Anchorage
<u>Mainland Districts:</u>		
(NM20) Inner Kukak Bay	(MM40) Puale Bay	
(MM10) Inner Katmai Bay	(MM50) Portage Bay	
(MM30) Alinchak Bay	(SM10) Wide Bay	

The remainder of the Kodiak Area will stay closed to commercial herring fishing for the entire sac roe season.

Guideline harvest levels and maps of open sections and gear assignments are available at the Kodiak office and in the herring sac roe fishery harvest strategy for the 2012 season. Fishermen are urged to check with their market and test their catch prior to landing herring. Determining if size or roe quality meets processor standards is the responsibility of fishermen and industry. It is anticipated that many small and green fish will be present on the grounds during the initial open fishing periods. Recent fishery information may be obtained by calling the Departments 24-hour record-a-phone at 486-4559.